

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

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P R 221651Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4873

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18683

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: VISIT BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS: BARUFFI AND CARLI

REF: STATE 296387 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING SOUNDINGS HERE IN ROME, WE BELIEVE IT
DESIRABLE TO PROCEED WITH FACILITATING US VISIT OF
BARUFFI AND CARLI. SUCH A VISIT COULD BE A POSITIVE
FIRST STEP IN AN OVERALL COORDINATED COUNTRY-WIDE
APPROACH TOWARD ACQUAINTING DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS WITH THE
TECHNIQUES OF AMERICAN POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING.

2. DURING MEETING EMBOFFS HAD WITH SIGNORELLO
DECEMBER 19, HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IDEA OF EXPOSURE
OF DC POLITICIANS TO MODERN CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUES. HE
NOTED THAT FOCUS OF CURRENT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN DC
ON PLANNING FOR THE PARTY'S CONGRESS IN MARCH PRECLUDES ANY
SERIOUS EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION UNTIL THE SPRING.
MEANWHILE, HE SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY APPROACH D.C. VICE-
SECRETARY ATILIO RUFFINI, WHO IS CHARGED WITH
ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS, TO OBTAIN HIS SUPPORT FOR MORE CONCRETE
NATIONAL EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION. EMBASSY INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS
SUGGESTION WHEN POLITICAL ACTIVITY RESUMES FOLLOWING HOLIDAY
PERIOD.

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3. HOPEFULLY, SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WILL SUCCEED IN DEFINING FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE CAN PROCEED IN THIS EFFORT IN COOPERATION WITH OUR ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNTERPARTS. MEANWHILE, LIMITED SCOPE AND PRECISELY DEFINED OBJECTIVES OF BARUFFI AND CARLI, WHO ARE WILLING TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR TRIP, SHOULD OFFER US OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE FEASIBILITY OF CONTINUING WITH THIS IDEA IN A WIDER CONTEXT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME18683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-0329
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751219/aaaaaqcc.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 296387
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC OFFICIALS: BARUFFI AND CARLI
TAGS: PINT, IT, US, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, (BARUFFI), (CARLI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006